

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 EUR-12 ERDA-05 ISO-00 NEA-10 /042 W
-----250616Z 085724 /20
R 242000Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION OECD PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 5860

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 08767

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: ESTC COCOM
SUBJ: PERSISTENT U.S. DEFAULTS PLAGUE COCOM

REF: TOWNSEND/ROOT TELCON 3/22

1. ONCE AGAIN THE UNITED STATES IS CHRONICALLY AND REPEATEDLY FAILING TO STATE TIMELY POSITIONS ON A LARGE AND GROWING NUMBER OF COCOM EXCEPTION REQUESTS. AT THIS MOMENT US POSITIONS ARE OVERDUE ON SOME 19 EXCEPTION REQUESTS PENDING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1977 THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYING, THROUGH LACK OF TIMELY POSITIONS, THE DISPOSITION OF 43 OF A TOTAL OF 81 GENERAL EXCEPTION REQUESTS SUBMITTED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS. IN 13 OF THESE CASES, THE UNITED STATES HAD TO OBTAIN BILATERAL EXTENSIONS OF TIME BEYOND FIRST RESCHEDULING DATES. US DEL WAS ABLE TO APPROVE ONLY 18 OF THESE 81 GENERAL EXCEPTION REQUESTS ON DATES WHEN THEY WERE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR COCOM DISCUSSION. THIS GENERAL DELINQUENCY HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY NOTICEABLE DURING THE PAST THREE MONTHS.

2. DURING THE LAST COCOM MEETING, WHICH WAS HELD ON CONFIDENTIAL

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MARCH 22, FOR EXAMPLE, US DEL WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS ON 15 OF THE 17 EXCEPTION REQUESTS SUBMITTED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS, AND ON TWO OF THE THREE DEFINITIONAL ITEMS UP FOR DISCUSSION (US HAD ITSELF SUBMITTED THE THIRD). AT THE PRIOR COCOM MEETING ON MARCH 15 US DEL WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS ON 9 OF THE 10 CASES SUBMITTED BY OTHER DELS.

3. THESE REPEATED DELINQUENCIES NOT ONLY IRRITATE OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS BUT SERIOUSLY ERODE THEIR CONFIDENCE ON THE WORKABILITY OF COCOM AS NOW CONSTITUTED. THIS APPARENT US INABILITY TO PROCESS COCOM CASES IN A CONSISTENTLY TIMELY MANNER HAS UNDOUBTEDLY PLAYED A LARGE PART IN MOTIVATING RECENT PROPOSALS FOR CHANGING THE COCOM CRITERIA. WHILE THIS PROBLEM IS NOT NEW, US DEL CANNOT RECALL ANY PREVIOUS PERIOD DURING HIS FIVE YEARS ON THE JOB WHEN WASHINGTON SUPPORT ON EXCEPTION REQUESTS HAS BEEN SO INADEQUATE FOR SO LONG A PERIOD OF TIME.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PROMPT INSTRUCTIONS ON FOLLOWING CASES WHICH HAVE BEEN PENDING UNMOTIVATED US RESERVE BEYOND AUTOMATIC RESCHEDULED DATES:

(1) COCOM DOC (77)8 JAPANESE MULTIBEAM SCANNING SONAR TO USSR, US RESERVE SINCE 1/25.

(2) COCOM DOC (77)47 CANADIAN MAGNETOMETER TO PRC, US RESERVE SINCE 2/8.

(3) COCOM DOC (77) 50 ITALIAN BORING AND MILLING MACHINES TO ROMANIA, US RESERVE SINCE 1/25.

(4) COCOM DOC (77)118 JAPANESE COMPUTER SYSTEM TO CHINA, US RESERVE SINCE 3/8.

(5) COCOM DOC (77) 128 GERMAN VIDEO EQUIPMENT TO USSR, US RESERVE SINCE 3/8.

(6) COCOM DOC (77) 129 GERMAN CRYSTAL GROWING MACHINE TO USSR, US RESERVE SINCE 3/8.

(7) COCOM DOC (77) 130 GERMAN CRYSTAL GROWING MACHINE TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, US RESERVE SINCE 3/8.
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(8) COCOM DOC (77) 131 GERMAN MAGNETIC TAPE STORAGE TO ROMANIA, US RESERVE SINCE 3/8.

(9) COCOM DOC (77) 140 ITALIAN MOS IC TECHNOLOGY TO ROMANIA, US RESERVE SINCE 3/1.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS, EXCEPTIONS LIST
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OECDP08767
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770102-0561
Format: TEL
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770326/aaaaawnb.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eb97f0b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3008988
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERSISTENT U.S. DEFAULTS PLAGUE COCOM
TAGS: ESTC, US, COCOM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eb97f0b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009